

Additional ORD/IRIS Talking Points

GAO

- We would defer to GAO to explain their evaluation processes and IRIS's inclusion on the high risk list along with TSCA reform.
- Generally, GAO's position is that it is important for IRIS to be efficient, effective, and transparent to meet the needs of the Agency and other stakeholders.
- We have been working with GAO to make sure that the actions we're taking address their recommendations. In their 2017 report, GAO recognized the significant progress made by IRIS.
- Specifically, the IRIS Program made significant strides in their criteria ratings on the GAO's 2017 High Risk list, partially meeting, or meeting, all 5 high risk criteria.

GAO High Risk Criteria	2015 Rating	2017 Rating
Leadership Commitment	Met	Met
Monitoring	Partially Met	Met
Action Plan	Partially Met	Partially Met
Demonstrated Progress	Not Met	Partially Met
Capacity	Not Met	Partially Met

NAS

- IRIS has been implementing NAS recommendations continuously over the last several years.
 - Reports to Congress have detailed this progress. Another report should be coming your way soon.
- The 2014 NAS report commended the Agency's efforts to address its 2011 recommendations.
- The NAS never suggested that the quality of science in past assessments was in question. Rather, the manner in which that information was communicated and presented could be significantly improved.
 - EPA moved quickly to address those recommendations, and is continuing to refine these actions as we implement systematic review methodologies.
 - These new methods, most recently described in our August and September meetings with the Science Advisory Board and Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee, will make the decisions in IRIS assessments even more transparent and accessible to the peer review community.
- We continue to implement actions to modernize IRIS, increase capacity and increase transparency.
- New Review in 2018: We asked the NAS to convene a public meeting and review of the IRIS Program. A consensus report will be generated within six months of meeting.